

## Latin American Struggles for Independence and Peace



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Human history is the history of the popular masses' struggles to achieve their complete independence.

The Latin American people have continued to wage struggles for obtaining their complete independence through fighting against the internal and external oppressors (oligarchy, colonialism and imperialism). In Latin America, they started struggles against British, French and Dutch colonialists including the fighting against the Spanish and Portuguese colonies about 200 years ago. Those struggles grace the pages of the history of extraordinary activities of the popular masses guided by their great leaders who knew how to appreciate and defend the interest of the people.

The existing Latin American and Caribbean countries achieved political independence about

200 years ago. Haiti was the first independent country in Latin America. That Haiti attained independence in 1804 under the leadership of the liberators' group guided by Toussaint Louverture shows to the world that people's demands for independence could not be contained by any powerful oppressors once the popular masses decided to dedicate their lives to the independence and once an idea that the independence is the life and soul penetrated them.

The founders of Latin America, their great fatherland, summarized the progressive and advanced ideas in their writings and directed the popular masses to the struggle. They contributed to organizing, awaking and mobilizing the popular masses to achieve their independence.

Simon Bolivar, who greatly dedicated himself to the independence of Latin American

countries with his ideology and revolutionary activities, strove hard for the unity of the people at the time when he foresaw the impending threat by the United States at any moment.

In those days, he had already explained that it was necessary to organize the popular masses, educate them politically and inspire them to the struggle for transforming the society into the most just society. This enables us to observe the correctness of the Juche idea. Those three things on the above are something for us to do today.

Nowadays, US imperialism and some domestic oligarchies in Latin America have utilized mass communication media with the intention to ideologically deprave the people of Latin American and Caribbean countries and thus have discouraged them from waging struggles for complete independence.

Recently, a thesis of Francis Fukuyama proclaiming the end of history, the end of class struggle and the end of socialism has gained currency to universities and opinion research centres over the world. Its reputation has not been very good so far, but it has continuously been spread.

It affirms that humankind has arrived to the peak of his development. From then to the end of history, the economy model that controls his destiny would be neoliberalism. This thesis pretends to ignore the fact that socialism is alive and continuously developing, especially in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Actually, it is intending to impose on the world turning a deaf ear to the fact.

In the DPRK, it is not only the living

standard of the people that has been getting higher constantly in all the fields (free education in all levels and types, free medical care, free hospitalization and medicine, free housing, etc.), but also their science and technology that has developed to a high degree, as we can see the successful launching of an artificial satellite in December last year and the successful third nuclear testing conducted a few weeks ago. These facts show to US imperialism that threatening socialist countries is wrong and such thesis presented by Francis Fukuyama stating that socialism has died out is false.

In Latin America, economic sanctions imposed by US imperialism against Cuba have continued over the past 50 years. Despite this fact, the fruit of Cuban socialism has contributed to reducing and eliminating illiteracy in Venezuela and Bolivia. It also has exerted good influence on anti-illiteracy campaigns for dozens of countries of the world in various languages along with training doctors in various countries of the region by offering scholarships at the Latin American School of Medicine. It also has influence on the medical solidarity and support campaigns provided by Cuban doctors for many countries of the world, and their medical implementation of new vaccine against the cancer, etc. In other words, socialism is scientific knowledge for the welfare of the humankind and defending the socialist system is the spirit of self-respect or pride of the humankind.

When US imperialism was proclaiming the end of socialism, Hugo Chavez and the Bolivarian Revolution appeared in Venezuela to say to the world that socialism in the 21st

century was being constructed there.

The Venezuelan socialist construction has been promoted by the great creativity of the popular masses, the systematic enhancement of their consciousness and the development of their independence. While pushing aside the oppression of imperialism, the popular masses being aware of their genuine rights are strengthening their single-hearted unity. President Hugo Chavez, the great leader of the Venezuelan people, guided the great Venezuelan revolution with a strong sense of responsibility, powers and boldness.

The achievement of the Venezuelan revolution could be felt even by all the American people including the poor who received the benefits through the US-based CITGO Petroleum Corporation by the decision of President Hugo Chavez to reduce the price of lamp oil for heating purposes by some 60 percent in the winter period.

President Hugo Chavez took a measure to intensify the independence of his country. He withdrew financial resources from the Federal Reserve Banks of the US. And he also did not submit to the indications of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) that fix the prices of the gasoline, and minimum wages based on the income of the Venezuelan people.

In the economy of this region, Venezuela and Cuba originally initiated the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) against the intention of the US to impose on all the Latin American countries the signature to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (ALCA) (unfortunately some

puppet governments and traitors signed it with the US). The ALBA has been growing gradually and now constitutes the following countries in addition to the first two countries: Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Unlike the ALCA whose mutual relations are of dependence and subordination, the ALBA has the relations of mutual support, collaboration and solidarity without subordination.

The ALBA is making crucial contribution to consolidating the integration of those Latin American countries, intensifying their sovereignty and establishing the ideological, political, economic and financial independence of the countries and their people. The ALBA is the proud of the Latin American people attained in the struggle against the US imperialism, breaking through the schema of control by the international financial institutions.

A financial transaction between Venezuela and Nicaragua within the framework of the Unified System for Regional Compensation (SUCRE) was conducted for the first time a few days ago. The SUCRE is an innovative and creative attempt in trade relations. It is also resistance to the market economy and neoliberalism-oriented economy.

The 28th of February this year, the 10th meeting of the political council of the ALBA was held in Caracas. The meeting presented and evaluated new superior objectives to strengthen the sovereignty and independence of the governments and people of Latin American countries. They covered the followings: the SUCRE, the Grand National Projects of Education,

Health and Culture, a new financial architecture against the dollar, the solidarity with Argentina in relation to the Falkland Islands.

In the struggle for independence in Latin America, the following organizations of this region have been founded successfully: a petroleum company "PETROSUR," a people's university "UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS PUEBLOS DEL SUR," a bank "BANCO DEL SUR," a news agency "TELESUR." The entry of Venezuela to the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) that then comprised 12 countries of South America was very important for the integration of Latin America.

Additionally, the economic growth in Brazil, its scientific and technological development and the anti-poverty programs could extricate 20 million of the Brazilian people from extreme poverty. The followings are other important examples of the struggle for independence in Latin America: the Argentinean government and people's struggle against the international financial organizations to defend their national sovereignty against British imperialism and allied US imperialism, along with the Bolivian struggle for the nationalization of hydrocarbon and that of the airport.

Nevertheless, the struggle for independence is not always arising all over Latin America. There can be setbacks like those in Honduras and Paraguay. In both those countries, oligarchies and imperialism cruelly suppressed democracy and forced the governments to subordinate to their interests. Whether people's democratic governments would be restored or not depends on how to organize, awaken and

mobilize the popular masses in those countries.

In other cases, there are subordinate governments like those in Chile, Colombia and Mexico.

According to the newspaper "El Ciudadano" in Chile, the Chilean government permitted the construction of a military base in the city of Concon, 30 km north of Valparaiso. It was a part of the urban military operation program of the United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) and is putting in danger security and peace in the South American region.

The successive Colombian governments, through the so-called Colombia Plan and the Patriot Plan, received billions of dollars from the US government. It is important to point out that those amounts of dollars were utilized to suppress the people's struggle and be more subordinated to imperialism.

In Mexico, the sixth successive governments including the current one, in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party or the National Action Party has been the ruling party, have played a role in totally subordinating to imperialism and the domestic oligarchy and have broken up the State to all intents and purposes through privatizing the state's property, especially public corporations such as of railroad, telephone, television, bank and mine. And now, the present government is inclined to privatize the petroleum corporation, while sharing petroleum revenue with the transnational companies.

The rate of Mexican unemployment is high and there is constant instability in the wages of

workers. These are deteriorated phenomena triggered by the recent modifications to the Federal Labour Law.

Mexico has lost its self-sufficiency in energy and food. Though she is one of the principal oil-producing countries, she imports some 50 percent of the total amounts of gasoline consumed by the Mexican people. She also imports some 30 percent of the total amounts of corn consumed. Corn is a part of our Mexican culture and a staple food from the quite ancient times.

US imperialism plundered the people of their natural, economic, human and financial resources by merciless means and forced the people to submit to them. For this US imperialism toppled the governments in many countries and introduced their henchmen to those countries and thus has utilized many ways such as economic pressure and direct military intervention aimed to control over them for a long time.

Today when the majority of the Latin American countries are following the path of independence, US imperialism is preparing new interference actions such as the

installation of some military bases along the South American continent, as mentioned earlier the US military bases in Chile.

In Colombia, with the consent of the puppet government of this country, the US imperialists conducted to install many military bases there. So also did they the military base of Palmerola in Honduras. The US negotiation of installing a military base in Chaco, Paraguay is now under way.

These military bases in the diverse countries, some of which exist for several decades, are the risk factor to the security and peace of those countries. It is because those military bases can be utilized to pressure and intimidate the unsubmissive people and governments to subordinate to the imperialist policies. It is also because they are used for committing secret operations and direct military aggression of US imperialism or incidental military attacks through mobilizing the army and police of those subordinate governments.

For the reasons stated above, we the Juche idea researchers in Latin America appreciate neither subordination nor imperialist wars. We will wage struggles for independence



Participants in the Latin American Regional Seminar (Mexico City on March 8, 2013)

and peace.

The first indigenous president of Latin America in the 19th century, Benito Juarez said, "Among individuals, as among nations, respect for the rights of others is peace."

In Colombia, at the end of last year, the Colombian government started its peace negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The FARC is the oldest guerrilla troop on the American continents. In spite of billions of dollars provided by US imperialism with the successive Colombian governments for its extinction, it has never become extinct nor will be extinct. Such a start from conflicts to peace will diminish the possibility of imperialist military attacks against their neighbouring countries such as Ecuador, Venezuela and Bolivia, and contribute to a failure of the imperialist war plans for this region.

We will call on the US for having relations of mutual respect and no interference in the internal affairs of the Latin American countries. In this context, we appreciate the Venezuelan government for its firmness and dignity in declaring to expel two diplomats at the American Embassy to Venezuela as undesirable persons.

We shall have our ties of solidarity with the American people just like President Hugo Chavez realized their ties with the US through the CITGO, a Petroleum Corporation.

We will wage struggles against large transnational companies that exploit and sack our own resources. Those large transnational companies have imposed even on the American people a budget cut of 85 billion dollars. This budget reduction will generate

more than 750 thousands of the unemployed in the US, lower their living standard and affect directly the program of health and education on which several millions of the American people rely. This is how the large transnational companies cause the people pain. The same goes for the immigrants. The immense majority of them in the US are the Latin Americans.

We believe that this reality will urge the American people to wage struggles for a more just society.

As President Kim Il Sung clarified, the task of the Latin American Juche idea researchers is to organize the popular masses, educate them ideologically and inspire them to the struggle for building an independent and peaceful Latin America where they can decide and carve out the destiny of their own.

We surely should study and disseminate the Juche idea more deeply and widely. And we should eulogize the examples of dignity and bravery of the people and government of the DPRK directed by First Secretary Kim Jong Un. It is the DPRK that has conducted the socialist construction successfully and defended firmly her sovereignty from the attack of imperialism under the banner of Songun.

We also should disseminate good examples of the Bolivarian struggle for the Latin American people left by the extraordinary and dear leader of the Bolivarian Revolution, Commander Hugo Chavez. He will live in our hearts. I believe Hugo Chavez is still alive.

Long live Hugo Chavez!

Long live Comrade Kim Jong Un!

Long live the independence of Latin America!